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aimé (*ego habeo amatum*), 'I did love.'¹ Again (p. 70): 'After word-order had acquired functional value, and the more precise relating-words were current, relating endings lost their importance, and would become assimilated, slurred, and dropped, from the natural tendency of speakers to trouble themselves over no more speech-material than is needed to convey their thought.' Such views as this are quite natural, but as no facts in their favor have ever been ascertained, science has not adopted them; a concrete view of the circumstances, moreover, makes it very unlikely that such facts will ever turn up. The phenomena we designate as phonetic change are minutely gradual, unconscious changes of habit in the execution of certain extremely practised and therefore very much mechanized movements, namely those of articulation. Psychologically viewed, these gradual changes of habit fall into an entirely different plane—one many degrees lower as to consciousness,—from any desire or need of expressing one's thought. Such a desire or need may influence my selection of words or whole expressions, their position, their emphasis and melody, and may even impel an analogic change, but it cannot influence that remote part of my psyche that is without my command or knowledge leading me, as the decades go by, to hand on to posterity certain habits of tongue-position differing by a millimetre or a few sigmas from those which my elders taught me.

Space forbids entering farther into this complex question or at all into a few others of less primary importance. In spite of these errors of principle, we must hope that S. will continue his studies and publications in this field. Work that will contribute to improve the situation as to languages, English or other, in our schools, is to be welcomed with open arms.

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ELEMENTS OF THE HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, by Uno Lindelöf, Ph.D., Professor of the English Language and Literature, University of Helsingfors, transl. by Robert M. Garrett, Ph.D., University of Washington, 1911. pp. 128.

Doctor Garrett has introduced to the American student another continental treatise on the History of the English

¹ Here the example is faulty, for the L. perfect has lived on in the Romance languages by the side of the new compound forms (Cf. e. g. Suchier, *Gr. d. rom. Phil.* I², 804): how the latter can be held responsible for sound-changes in the former is a mystery to me. That they are driving the old forms into disuse is another matter.

Language. This latest work does not in any way rank in importance with the earlier ones. It can make no pretention to the authoritativeness that characterizes Kluge's pioneer work. Nor can it at all compare with Jespersen's stimulating work, so original in point of view, so fresh in method. Professor Lindelöf's work is rather a digest of existing information on its subject. "The book was written in 1895," we are told by the translator, "as a summary of the leading facts in the history of English, for the use of University students who were preparing for examination; the author has thoroughly revised and rewritten portions of the work for the translation." "The great charm" (sic) of the book, we are told by the translator, "is its brevity," a somewhat doubtful claim to charm it would seem. In reality the brevity of the treatment of so broad a subject must have seriously hampered the author, in whom it is possible to detect here and there signs of genuine feeling for the interest of his subject. Attempting, however, as he does, to compress into less than one hundred and twenty-eight pages an account of the Indo-European family of languages and the Germanic group, of Old English phonology and inflection, of the foreign influences affecting English, and of the later history of Old English sounds and declensions, it is not surprising if in many places he has to offer only a barren heap of grammatical forms. This feature of his work is apparent for instance in the bare statements regarding the "Preterite-Presents" and the forms of the verb 'to be.' Such assemblages of facts are not readable and for the sake of reference might have been more effectively, even more concisely, presented by means of tables.

An even more serious fault, in the opinion of the present writer, is in the placing of the emphasis. There may be said to be two ways of treating the history of the English language. One way, the older one, is first to center the attention on Old English, particularly on the sounds and inflections, and then to study the development of the Old English sounds and inflections in later English. A second way is first to center the attention on modern living speech, and then to study earlier stages in the history of the language for the purpose of learning the source of present-day spelling, pronunciation, inflections, words, and idiom. The shift of the emphasis to the modern period is apparent in most modern books on English language. Professor Lindelöf's book represents the older method.

Professor Lindelöf in this work shows familiarity with the principal products of recent scholarship. He also shows personal familiarity particularly with the early English dialects. The book aims in general merely to set forth accepted opinion,

and consequently offers little subject for controversy. An exception must be made in the case of the discussion of French influence on English before 1400, in which too great emphasis is placed on the Norman element.

In the English version of this work there have crept in a number of expressions not quite suited to the genius of the English language. In line 10 of the first page, the tense of *has been* seems like a survival from the original work. In a similar way is probably to be explained *some* in line 10 of page 2. To the difficulty of transferring from one language to another are probably to be explained a number of distortions of fact. For instance on page 1, we read, "the number of Celts is very small," where the reference is to people speaking Celtic languages; and on page 2 we read in one place that "Gallie is the only Celtic language of the mainland of which we know anything"; in another place, "Welsh is spoken in Wales, and Breton in Brittany." Faults arising in translation, like the ones we have cited from the first two pages, occur with somewhat too great frequency in the remaining pages of the book.

This work in its inception was intended for a cram book. For that use it seems now better fitted than for use in introducing students to the general subject. The author has brought into a remarkably compact form the facts that a student would need to call to mind in reviewing. He has brought to his work knowledge of the most recent progress in the subject. He has, however, made little original contribution, and the form of the work is hardly that best suited for the use of the beginner.

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DIBELIUS, WILHELM. *Englische Romankunst. Die Technik des englischen Romans im achtzehnten und zu Anfang des neunzehnten Jahrhunderts.* Bd. I., Berlin, Mayer & Müller, 1910.

MORGAN, CHARLOTTE E. *The Rise of the Novel of Manners.* Columbia University Press. 1911.

When a scholar announces in his preface, "My work presents the great highway which leads from Defoe to Dickens, but not all the little sidepaths that accompany and cross it," and then publishes 406 closely-printed pages as but one-half of his labor, the reader has a right to expect proportion, completeness, and clearness for the topic chosen. It is not too much to say that Professor Dibelius's work on the technique of the English novel in the the 18th century is neither clear, complete, nor well-proportioned.

A powerful cause for this failure lies in the origin of the book. Although first intended as "an introductory chap-